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73-4049

THE WHITE HOUSE

DD/M&amp;S 73-2914

WASHINGTON

July 17, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF

DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF ACTIONS BY THE INTERAGENCY  
CLASSIFICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (#1)

As you may know, a year ago the Interagency Classification Review Committee was established by President Nixon to assist the National Security Council in monitoring implementation of Executive Order 11652 on classification and declassification. The members of this Committee include a Chairman designated by the President, the Archivist of the United States, and senior representatives from each of the departments of State, Defense, and Justice, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Atomic Energy Commission and the National Security Council staff.

Inasmuch as decisions of the Interagency Committee may have an impact on departments and agencies other than those represented on the Committee, it was decided at the last meeting to establish an information memorandum summarizing the Committee's actions addressed to the heads of the departments and agencies and the chairmen of the Departmental Classification Review Committees. Accordingly, this memorandum is the first in that series.

The following is a summary of actions by the Interagency Committee at its meeting on June 13, 1973:

1. Except for "Restricted Data" and material designated as "Formerly Restricted Data" under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, Executive Order 11652 provides that the head of a department or agency has the authority to downgrade or declassify any classified information originated by his department or agency and no longer requiring the same level or any level of protection in the

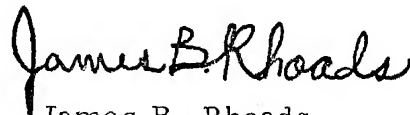
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national security interest. The downgrading or declassification of such information may either be by categories of information, items of information, or information contained in specific documents. This matter was discussed by the Committee with reference to material classified pursuant to Executive Order 10501, as amended and placed in the Group 3 category which prior to June 1, 1972 would have resulted in automatic downgrading at 12 year intervals to the level of Confidential. Under Executive Order 11652, such automatic downgrading ceased to occur after the effective date of the Order. It was the recommendation of the Committee that department and agency heads consider authorizing application of this or a speedier downgrading schedule for such classified material.

2. A subcommittee of the ICRC has been established and is engaged in a series of working sessions to propose standard and optional forms related to classified document security.

3. The Committee approved amendments to a department's regulations on classification and declassification which grant a requester 30 days after receipt of notice of denial in which to appeal to the Departmental Committee the denial of a mandatory declassification request pursuant to Executive Order 11652. In the same regulations, it is provided that a requester may also appeal to the Departmental Committee if no determination is made on the request at the end of 60 days after receipt of the request by the Department concerned.



James B. Rhoads  
Acting Chairman  
Interagency Classification  
Review Committee